

**MARKED UP VERSION OF SPECIFICATION AND CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

For the convenience of the Examiner, all claims have been listed whether or not an amendment has been made. The Claims have been amended as follows:

1. A computer/software system for managing telecommunication network elements, comprising:

one or more operator-driven processes which monitor and manage network elements in real time, using at least one telecommunications network control channel;

a database which reports attributes of ones of said network elements in response to queries from ones of said operator-driven processes; and

one or more background processes

which monitor communications over said control channel and which parse all communications which imply network element status changes and

which dynamically update said database accordingly, in real time.

2. The system of Claim 1, wherein information from said database is dynamically linked into said operator-driven processes, so that said background processes dynamically update said operator-driven processes whenever a change is made to any element to which an operator-driven process is making read access.

**Please add the following new claims:**

--3. A method for maintaining a network element database, comprising:

monitoring communications between a network element manager and a plurality of network elements over at least one telecommunications network control channel;

storing configuration status information regarding the plurality of network elements at a database associated with the network element manager;

parsing messages received from one or more of the plurality of network elements, which include updated configuration status information regarding the one or more of the plurality of network elements; and

dynamically updating portions of the configuration status information with portions of the updated status information.

4. The method of Claim 3, further comprising periodically repeating the steps of parsing the messages and dynamically updating the portions of the configuration status information.

5. The method of Claim 3, further comprising:  
receiving a query for current configuration data regarding a particular one of the plurality of network elements; and  
providing dynamically updated configuration status information regarding the particular one, in response to the query.

6. The method of Claim 3, further comprising:  
presenting a graphical representation of the database at a graphical user interface; and  
dynamically updating the graphical representation with dynamically updated status information regarding one or more of the plurality of network elements.

7. A telecommunications network element manager, comprising:  
an interface being operable to communicate with a plurality of telecommunications network elements using at least one telecommunications network control channel;  
a processor being operable to monitor communications received at the interface;  
a memory being operable to store configuration status information regarding the plurality of network elements;  
the processor being further operable to parse messages received from one or more of the plurality of network elements, which include updated configuration status information regarding the one or more of the plurality of network elements; and  
the processor being further operable to dynamically update portions of the configuration status information with portions of the updated status information.

8. The telecommunications network element manager of Claim 7, wherein the processor is further operable to repetitively parse the messages and dynamically update the portions of the configuration status information.

9. The telecommunications network element manager of Claim 7, wherein the processor is further operable to receive a query for current configuration data regarding a particular one of the plurality of network elements, and provide dynamically updated configuration status information regarding the particular one, in response to the query.

10. The telecommunications manager of Claim 9, further comprising:  
a graphical user interface; and  
wherein the dynamically updated configuration status information is provided to a user at the graphical user interface.

11. The telecommunications network element manager of Claim 7, further comprising:  
a graphical user interface being operable to present a graphical representation of the database to a user; and  
wherein the processor is further operable to dynamically update the graphical representation with dynamically updated status information regarding one or more of the plurality of network elements.--

---